



Ideas for using the internet and mobile phones in difficult political contexts

Mobile phones and the internet should be used with caution and care in difficult political contexts. It is wise to assess the risks to ensure that you do not put yourself, your organisation, or other people in danger. It is best not to use them if you are in a context where access to the internet is controlled and/or where phone use is tracked.

Good practice suggestion	Why and how to do it
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect your identity and location ▪ Keep your information secure 	<p>It is important that ICT benefits your advocacy, rather than putting anyone or anything at risk. Security is a very important consideration.</p> <p>Use a range of tools and materials from Tactical Tech known as Security in a Box, which have been designed for those using ICT in difficult political contexts</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Document your concerns ▪ Record testimonies of those affected by the issue(s) 	<p>Mobile phones that are equipped with cameras can be used to capture images and video film footage. These can then be shared via internet sites designed for sharing photos and videos.</p> <p>This can generate awareness-raising for advocacy within and outside your context. It can also provide an evidence base for advocacy itself.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do awareness-raising for advocacy in your context ▪ Communicate with people within your country ▪ Mobilise people within your country 	<p>There may be other people in your country who are concerned for the same issue or cause, but you may not know about them. You can use social networking websites to help you find them, and to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generate support for an issue or cause - Help with awareness-raising for advocacy - Set up events - Let people know where action is taking place - Encourage people to join in mass campaigning actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communicate with those outside the country ▪ Mobilise people outside the country 	<p>The internet and mobile phones can help relay messages about an issue to those outside your country. They can then give this information to their governments and decision-makers and use it to urge them to put pressure on your government to change the situation for your issue.</p> <p>This can be done via social networking websites, text messages, third party applications and proxy servers, many of which can still be used in difficult political contexts if the risks are acceptable.</p>

To read other documents regarding ideas for using the internet and mobile phones in specific parts of the Advocacy Cycle, visit this page on the TILZ website – <http://tilz.tearfund.org/advocacycomms>